

EPA Starts An Emergency Removal Action At The Diaz Intermediates Corp. (PRP), West Memphis, Arkansas.

The site is an abandoned and bankrupt manufacturing facility that was referred to the EPA by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The site manufactured various organic chemicals containing bromine and it filed for bankruptcy during the summer of 2007. The Site is 10 acres in size and contains approximately 2,000 drum/tote containers. On January 8, 2008, the EPA OSC and contractors mobilized to the site to stabilize it by transferring the contents of 23 leaking metal drums, from the warehouse, into three plastic totes. All drums had some bottom solids/sludge that was not pump able so EPA over packed thirteen of the worst condition drums and placed the rest on plastic. EPA replaced approximately 70 bad plastic drum bungs with new bungs found onsite. The plastic bungs were bad either due to weather and/or the drum contents had deteriorated the bungs so they were brittle and this caused them to develop holes in them. EPA also pumped the standing water from the Production Building into the secondary containment that had freeboard and placed 8 plastic drums on pallets. On January 10, 2008, the EPA collected six water samples, from the secondary containments, drum pad areas, and the site drainage ditch, for laboratory analysis and should receive the results on either January 21 or 22. During the site visit the EPA OSC also met with the West Memphis Fire Chief and the West Memphis POTW Director of Environmental Quality to inform them that EPA was on-site to stabilize the site. EPA completed the first phase of on-site work on January 11, 2008. The EPA and contractors will return to the site once the water laboratory results have been received, reviewed and developed a plan to address the standing water.

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